

July 22, 2019

The Honorable David Maria Sassoli President of the European Parliament C/O European Parliament Liaison Office 2175 K Street NW Washington, DC 20037, USA <u>epwashington@europarl.europa.eu</u>

<u>Re: Support for Petition No 0204/2019 by Evelien Van Den Brink (Dutch) on a request</u> for funding for biomedical research on Myalgic Encephalomyelitis

Dear President Sassoli,

On behalf of the Solve ME/CFS Initiative (Solve ME), I am writing in support of Petition No 0204/2019 to encourage the European Union (EU) to join our organization and others around the world by significantly investing resources into biomedical research of Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME), sometimes referred to as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) or ME/CFS. Only through global cooperation, including EU research teams, can we hope to find scientific answers that will improve the lives of an estimated 20 million people worldwide (including an estimated 2 million EU citizens) with ME/CFS.

ME/CFS is a complex, neuro-immune disease with no known cause or cure. ME/CFS can present in patients younger than 10 or older than 80 of any race, gender, or socio-economic class and leaves its patients with lower quality of life scores than lung cancer, stroke, and end-stage renal failure.

We are a non-governmental disease organization that works to accelerate the discovery of safe and effective treatments, strives for an aggressive expansion of funding for research that will lead to a cure and seeks to engage the entire ME/CFS community in research, advocacy, and patient support. We are a foundational ME/CFS organization, steadily broadening strategic, collaborative relationships with patients, researchers, government officials and other ME organizations across the globe.

I hope that you will lead and inspire the European Union Parliament to join our efforts to find a cure for this devastating disease.

Sincerely,

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Dr. Sadie Whittaker Chief Scientific Officer Solve ME/CFS Initiative

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